

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action mailed March 21, 2000, the benefit of an earlier application filing date was denied, the specification was objected to due to informalities, claims 9-16 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being vague and indefinite, claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC §103 as unpatentable over Shavit et al., claims 10-16 were rejected under 35 USC §103 as unpatentable over Roach et al. in view of Shavit et al., and claims 17-18 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1 and 2 of U.S. Patent Number 5,666, 493 to Wojcik et al. The foregoing rejections and objections are respectfully traversed.

**Priority**

In response to item 1, page 2 of the office action mailed March 21, 2000, the applicant has taken the Examiner's comments into consideration and has added a reference to prior applications in the first line of the specification as required by 37 CFR §1.78. Therefore, the effective filing date for this application is August 24, 1993.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner respond in the next office action by acknowledging the effective filing date of this application as August 24, 1993.

**Specification**

In item to 2, page 2 of the office action mailed March 21, 2000, the Examiner objected to the specification due to informalities. Taking the examiner's comments into consideration, the specification has been amended with one notable exception.

The Examiner requested that "bill of lading" be changed to "bill of landing". The applicant must respectfully traverse this request. Bill of lading is spelled correctly and properly used as evidenced by page 651 of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate dictionary, 10<sup>th</sup> edition herewith attached to this amendment.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the objections to the specification be withdrawn.

**Rejection of claims 9 – 16 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph**

In item 5, on page 3 of the office action mailed March 21, 2000, the Examiner rejected claims 9 – 16 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being vague and indefinite. Taking the Examiner's comments into consideration, claims 9 and 10 have been amended. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9 – 16 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

**Rejection of claim 9 under 35 USC § 103**

In item 7, on pages 4 - 5 of the office action mailed March 21, 2000, claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Shavit et al., U.S. patent No. 4,799,156. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Shavit et al. discloses and interactive online system for processing business transactions among buyers, sellers and shippers. However, Shavit et al. does not disclose or suggest the process of requesting a vendor quotation, creating a blanket vendor order, entering the blanket vendor order into an electronic catalog, and selecting

an item for purchase from the electronic catalog. In particular, Shavit et al. does not disclose or suggest creating an electronic catalog using a blanket vendor order.

As detailed on pages 49 - 52 of the specification and figures 37 - 40, the present invention provides for a process of standardizing purchasing. Through the use of blanket vendor agreements or orders an electronic catalog is automatically generated from which items may be purchased.

In particular, claim 9 patentably distinguishes over the prior art of record by reciting "A method for creating an electronic catalog and processing purchase requests, comprising: *requesting a vendor quotation; creating a blanket vendor order; entering the blanket vendor order in the electronic catalog, wherein the electronic catalog comprises a plurality of items, quantities, shipment charges, delivery times and availabilities; creating a pre-approved budget; creating a purchase request; requesting an item from using the purchase request; communicating said order from the electronic catalog to a vendor; receiving acknowledgment of the communicated order; receiving the ordered item; and recording receipt of said item.*" (Emphasis added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 9 under 35 USC § 103 (a) as unpatentable over Shavit et al. is respectfully requested.

**MPEP §2144.03 "Well Known" Prior Art**

The applicant respects and acknowledges the knowledge and expertise demonstrated by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed March 21, 2000, but under M.P.E.P. §2144.03 the applicant must respectfully request that a reference be supplied

for all items indicated by the Examiner as "well known" in the art or where "official notice" was taken. Specifically, on page 5, lines 3 - 7 of the Office Action asserts that the creating of a pre-approved budget is well known in the art. Further, the use of a pre-approved budget is used in the context of the creation of an electronic catalog. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested under M.P.E.P. §2144.03 to supply a reference that a pre-approved budget is used in conjunction with the creation of an electronic catalog.

**Rejection of claims 10 – 16 under 35 USC § 103 (a)**

In item 8, on pages 5 - 11 of the office action mailed March 21, 2000, claims 10 - 16 were rejected under 35 USC § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Roach et al., U.S. patent No. 5,434,394, in view of Shavit et al., U.S. patent No. 4,799,156. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Roach et al. discloses a system for processing merchandise sales and delivery from a warehouse. Shavit et al. discloses and interactive online system for processing business transactions among buyers, sellers and shippers. However, neither Roach et al. nor Shavit et al. in combination disclose or suggest the creation of an electronic catalog based on a blanket vendor agreement.

In particular, claim 10 patentably distinguishes over the prior art of record by reciting "A system for creating an electronic catalog, comprising: means for purchasing an item; means for creating a graphical user interface for a customer service representative to input an order; means for tendering a load to a carrier for shipment;

means for creating an automated warehousing ticket; and means for creating an electronic catalog based on a blanket vendor agreement, wherein said electronic catalog comprises a plurality of items, quantities, shipment charges, delivery times and availabilities." (Emphasis added)

Claims 11 – 16 also recite patentably distinguishing features over the combination of Roach et al. and Shavit et al. In particular, as exemplified by claims 11, the combination of Roach et al. and Shavit et al. does not disclose or suggest "means for processing the requisition request by comparing said requisition request to the blanket vendor agreement to determine the availability of the item". (Emphasis added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10 - 16 under 35 USC § 103 (a) as unpatentable over Roach et al. in view of Shavit et al. is respectfully requested.

**MPEP §2144.03 "Well Known" Prior Art**

The applicant respects and acknowledges the knowledge and expertise demonstrated by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed March 21, 2000, but under M.P.E.P. §2144.03 the applicant must respectfully request that a reference be supplied for all items indicated by the Examiner as "well known" in the art or where "official notice" was taken. Specifically, on page 7, of the Office Action asserts that the checking of the availability of funds against a budget to approve a purchase transaction is well known in the art. The Examiner is respectfully requested under M.P.E.P. §2144.03 to supply a reference that discloses checking of the availability of funds against a budget to approve a purchase transaction.

Further, as previously discussed, on page 11 of the office action it is asserted the that a "means for creating a pre-approved budget" is well known in the art. The Examiner is respectfully requested under M.P.E.P. §2144.03 to supply a reference that a pre-approved budget is used in conjunction with the creation of an electronic catalog.

**Double Patenting Rejection of Claims 17 and 18**

In item 10, on pages 12-14, claims 17 and 18 are rejected under the judicially created double patenting over claims one and two of U.S. patent No. 5,666,493. Taking the Examiner's comments into consideration, claims 17 and 18 have been amended.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 17 and 18 is respectfully requested.

**New Claims 19 and 20**

New claims 19 and 20 have been added to this application. These new claims depend from claim 10 and are allowable by virtue of their dependents on an allowable independent claim. New claims 19 and 20 find support within the specification.

Therefore, allowance of claims 19 and 20 is respectfully requested.

**Conclusion**

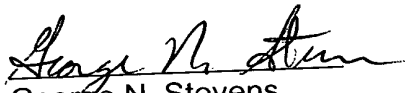
All objections and rejection having been overcome, and new claims 19 and 20 having been added, the application is in condition for allowance which is respectfully requested.

Serial No. 09/083,681

DOCKET NO. 486.37843CC2

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 Antonelli, Terry, Stout & to Kraus, LLP Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 486.37843CC2) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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**lact-al-bu-min** \lak-'tal-'byü-mən\ [ISV] (ca. 1857): an albumin that is obtained from whey and is similar to serum albumin  
**lact-ase** \lak-'tās, -'tāz\ n [ISV] (1891): an enzyme that hydrolyzes beta-galactosides (as lactose) and occurs esp. in the intestines of young mammals and in yeasts  
**lact-ate** \lak-'tā\ n (ca. 1794): a salt or ester of lactic acid  
**lactate** v **lact-at-ed**; **lact-tat-ing** [L *lactatus*, pp. of *lactare*, fr. *lact-*] (ca. 1889): to secrete milk — **lact-ta-tion** \lak-'tā-shən\ n — **lact-tion-ally** \-'shnəl, -'shə-nəl\ adj  
**lact-te-ol** \lak-'tē-əl\ adj [L *lacteus* of milk, fr. *lact-*, *lac*] (ca. 1658) 1 **lact-te-ol** \lak-'tē-əl\ adj [L *lacteus* of milk, fr. *lact-*, *lac*] (ca. 1658) 1 relating to, consisting of, producing, or resembling milk 2 a: conveying or containing a milky fluid b: of or relating to the lacteals  
**lacteal** n (1680): any of the lymphatic vessels arising from the villi of the small intestine and conveying chyle to the thoracic duct  
**lact-ic** \lak-'tik\ adj (1790) 1 a: of or relating to milk b: obtained from sour milk or whey 2: involving the production of lactic acid from sour milk or whey 3: a hygroscopic organic acid C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>5</sub>O<sub>3</sub> present normally in tissue, produced in carbohydrate matter, usu. by bacterial fermentation, and used esp. in food and medicine and in industry  
**lact-if-er-ous** \lak-'ti-(ə)-rəs\ adj [F or LL; F *lactifère*, fr. LL *lactifer*, fr. L *lact-*, *lac* + *-fer*] (ca. 1674) 1: yielding a milky juice (~ plants) 2: secreting or conveying milk  
**lact-to-ba-cil-lus** \lak-'tō-bə-'si-ləs\ n [NL] (1924): any of a genus (*Lactobacillus*) of lactic-acid-forming bacteria  
**lact-to-gen-ic** \lak-'tə-'je-nik\ adj (1933): inducing lactation (~ hormones)  
**lact-to-glob-u-lin** \-'glā-byə-lən\ n (1885): a crystalline protein fraction that is obtained from the whey of milk  
**lact-one** \lak-'tōn\ n [ISV] (1880): any of various cyclic esters formed from hydroxy acids — **lact-ton-ic** \lak-'tā-nik\ adj  
**lact-ose** \lak-'tōs, -'tōz\ n [ISV] (1858): a disaccharide sugar C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>11</sub> that is present in milk and yields glucose and galactose upon hydrolysis and yields esp. lactic acid upon fermentation  
**lac-u-na** \lak-'kü-nə, -'kyü-nə, pl **lac-u-nae** \-'kyü-nə, -'kü-nə\ or **lac-u-nas** \-'kü-nəz, -'kyü-nəz\ [L, pool, pit, gap — more at LAGOOON] (1652) 1: a blank space or a missing part: GAP 2: a small cavity, pit, or discontinuity in an anatomical structure — **lac-u-nar** \-'kü-nər, -'kyü-nər\ also **lac-u-nate** \lak-'kü-nət, -'kyü-nət, -'nāt; 'lak-kyə-'nāt\ adj (1830)  
**lacustrine** \lak-'kəs-trən\ adj [F or It *lacustre*, fr. L *lacus* lake] (1830): of, relating to, formed in, living in, or growing in lakes (~ deposits) (~ faunas)  
**lacy** \lā-'sē\ adj **lac-ier**; -est (1804): resembling or consisting of lace  
**lad** \lad\ n [ME *ladde*] (14c) 1: a male person of any age between early boyhood and maturity: BOY, YOUTH 2: FELLOW, CHAP  
**lad-a-num** \lā-'dā-nəm, -'lād-nəm\ var of LABDANUM  
**lad-der** \lā-'dər\ n, often attrib [ME, fr. OE *hlæder*; akin to OHG *leitara* ladder, OE *hlinian* to lean — more at LEAN] (bef. 12c) 1: a structure for climbing up or down that consists essentially of two long sidepieces joined at intervals by crosspieces on which one may step 2: something that resembles or suggests a ladder in form or use; esp.: RUN 11a 3: a series of usu. ascending steps or stages: SCALE (climbing up the corporate ~) — **lad-der-like** \-'lik\ adj  
**lad-der-back** \-'bak\ adj (1908) of furniture: having a back consisting of two upright posts connected by horizontal slats  
**ladder truck** n (1889): HOOK AND LADDER TRUCK  
**lad-die** \lā-'dē\ n (1546): a young lad  
**lade** \lād\ vb **lad-ed**; **laded** or **lad-en** \lā-'dən\; **lad-ing** [ME, fr. OE *hladan*; akin to OHG *hladan* to load, OCS *klasti* to place] vt (bef. 12c) 1 a: to put a load or burden on or in: LOAD b: to put or place as a load esp. for shipment: SHIP c: to load heavily or oppressively 2 **lad-ing** \lā-'dɪŋ\ vi 1: to take on cargo: LOAD 2: to take up or convey a liquid by dipping  
**lad-en** \lā-'dən\ vt **lad-ened**; **lad-en-ing** \lād-nɪŋ, 'lā-'dən-ɪŋ\ (1514): LADE  
**laden** adj (bef. 12c): carrying a load or burden  
**la-di-da** \lā-'dē-'dā\ also **la-de-da** adj [perh. alter. of *lardy-dardy* foppish] (1895): affectedly refined in manners or tastes: PRETENTIOUS, ELEGANT  
**lad-ies** \lā-'dēz\ n pl but sing or pl in constr (1918) chiefly Brit: LADIES' ROOM  
**lad-ies' man** also **lad-y's man** n (1784): a man who shows a marked fondness for the company of women or is esp. attentive to women  
**lad-ies' room** n (1870): a room equipped with lavatories and toilets for the use of women  
**lad-ies' tresses** n pl but sing or pl in constr (1548): any of a widely distributed genus (*Spiranthes*) of terrestrial orchids with slender often twisted spikes of white irregular flowers  
**La-din** \lā-'dēn\ n [Rhaeto-Romance; fr. L *Latinum* Latin] (1877) 1 a: a Rhaeto-Romance dialect of Alto Adige in northern Italy b: the Rhaeto-Romance dialects of the Engadine Valley in Switzerland 2 one speaking Ladin as a mother tongue  
**lad-ing** \lā-'dɪŋ\ n (1500) 1 a: LOADING 1 b: an act of bailing, dipping, or lading 2: CARGO, FREIGHT  
**la-di-no** \lā-'dē-(j)nō\ n, pl -nos [Sp, lit., Latin, fr. L *latinus*] (1877) 1 **la-di-no** \lā-'dē-(j)nō\ n, pl -nos [Sp, lit., Latin, fr. L *latinus*] (1877) 1 often cap [AmerSp]: a westernized Spanish-speaking Latin American; esp: MESTIZO 2 cap [Judeo-Spanish, fr OSp]: JUDEO-SPANISH  
**la-di-no clover** \lā-'dē-(j)nō-, -nə-\ n [perh. irreg. fr. *Lodi*, Italy + It -ino, adj. suffix] (1924): a large nutritious rapidly growing clover that is a variety of white clover and is widely planted esp. for forage — called also *ladino*  
**lad-le** \lā-'dli\ n [ME *ladel*, fr. OE *hlædel*, fr. *hladan*] (bef. 12c) 1: a deep-bowled long-handled spoon used esp. for dipping up and conveying liquids 2: something resembling a ladle in form or function  
**lad-le** vt **lad-dled**; **lad-dling** \lād-lɪŋ, 'lā-'dli-ɪŋ\ (1525): to take up and convey in or as if in a ladle  
**la-dol-ce-vi-tā** \lā-'dōl-'vē-(j)-chā-'vē-(j)-tā\ var of DOLCE VITA  
**lad-y** \lā-'dē\ n, pl **lad-ies** often attrib [ME, fr. OE *hlædfige*, fr. *hlāf* bread + *-dige* (akin to *dāge* kneader of bread) — more at LOAF, DAIRY] (bef. 12c) 1 a: a woman having proprietary rights or authority esp. as a feudal superior b: a woman receiving the homage or devotion of a knight or lover 2 cap: VIRGIN MARY — usu. used with *Our* 3 a: a woman of superior social position b: a woman of refinement and gentle manners c: WOMAN, FEMALE — often used in a courteous referent (show the ~ to a seat) or usu. in the pl. in address (*ladies* and

gentlemen) : WIFE b: GIRLFRIEND, MISTRESS 5 a: any of various titled women in Great Britain — used as the customary title of a marchioness, countess, viscountess, or baroness or (2) the wife of a knight, baronet, member of the peerage, or one having the courtesy title of *lord* and used as a courtesy title for the daughter of a duke, marquess, or earl b: a female member of an order of knighthood — compare DAME  
**lad-y-bug** \lā-'dē-'bæg\ n [Our *Lady*, the Virgin Mary] (1699): any numerous small nearly hemispherical often brightly colored beetle (family Coccinellidae) of temperate and tropical regions that usu. feed both as larvae and adults on other insects. — called also *lady beetle*  
**ladybird**, **ladybird beetle**  
**lady chapel** n, often cap L&C (15c): a chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary  
**Lady Day** n (13c): ANNUNCIATION 1  
**lad-y-fin-ger** \lā-'dē-'fɪŋ-'gər\ n (1820): a small finger-shaped spongy cake  
**lad-y-fish** \-'fɪʃ\ n (1712) 1: BONEFISH 1 2: a large silvery food a sport fish (*Elops saurus*) that resembles a herring but is related to tarpon  
**lad-y-in-wait-ing** \lā-'dē-'ɪn-'wā-tɪŋ\ n, pl **lad-ies-in-wait-ing** (18c): a lady of a queen's or a princess's household appointed to wait on her  
**lad-y-kill-er** \lā-'dē-'ki-lər\ n (ca. 1810): a man who is extremely attractive to women  
**lad-y-kin** \lā-'dē-'kɪn\ n (1853): a little lady  
**lad-y-like** \-'lik\ adj (1586) 1: becoming or suitable to a lady 2: resembling a lady in appearance or manners: WELL-BRED 3 a: feigning or showing too much concern about elegance or propriety (~ e. barrasment at not being the wife of a real doctor — Lewis Vogler) b: lacking in strength, force, or virility  
**lad-y-love** \lā-'dē-'ləv, 'lā-'dē-\ n (1733): SWEETHEART, MISTRESS  
**lady of the house** (1816): the chief female in a household  
**Lady of the Lake** (15c): VIVIAN  
**lad-y-ship** \lā-'dē-'ʃɪp\ n (13c): the condition of being a lady: rank of lady — used as a title for a woman having the rank of lady (her *ladyship* is not at home) (if your *ladyship* please)  
**lad-y's slipper** n (1597): any of several No. American temperate-zone orchids (as of the genus *Cypripedium*) having flowers whose shape suggests a slipper — called also *lady slipper*  
**lad-y's-smock** \-'smək\ n (1588): CUCKOOFLOWER 1  
**lad-y's thumb** n (1837): a widely distributed weedy annual herb (*Lygoum persicaria*) that has large lanceolate leaves often with a blackish blotch suggesting a thumbprint  
**Lae-er-tes** \lā-'ər-'tēz\ n [L, fr. Gk *Laertes*] 1: the father of Odysseus in Greek mythology 2: the son of Polonius and brother of Ophelia in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*  
**Lae-ta-re Sun-day** \lā-'tār-'ē-, -'tār-\ n [L *laetare*, sing. imper. of *laetare*] (ca. 1870): the fourth Sunday in Lent  
**lae-trile** \lā-'trɪl-, -'trɪl\ n, often cap [laevorotary (levorotary) nitrile] (1953): a drug derived esp. from apricot pits that contains amygdalin and has been used in the treatment of cancer although unproved effectiveness  
**lag** \lag\ n [prob. of Scand origin; akin to Norw dial. *lagga* to lag slowly] (1514) 1: one that lags or is last 2 a: the act or the condition of lagging b: comparative slowness or retardation. c (1): amount of lagging or the time during which lagging continues (2) amount of time esp. between related events or phenomena: INTERVAL space of time esp. for opening shot (as in marbles or billiards) 3: the action of lagging for opening shot (as in marbles or billiards)  
**lag vb lagged; lag-ging** vi (1530) 1 a: to stay or fall behind: 1 GER, LOITER b: to move, function, or develop with comparative slowness c: to become retarded in attaining maximum value 2: to slacken or weaken gradually: FLAG 3: to toss or roll a marble toward a line or a cue ball toward the head cushion to determine order of play ~ vt 1: to lag behind (current that ~s the voltage) 2: to pitch shoot (as a coin or marble) at a mark *syn* see DELAY — **lag-ger** n  
**lag adj** (1552): LAST, HINDMOST  
**lag n** [prob. of Scand origin; akin to ON *logg* rim of a barrel] (1672) a: barrel stave 2: a stave, slat, or strip (as of wood or asbestos) forming part of a covering for a cylindrical object  
**lag vt lagged; lag-ging** (1870): to cover or provide with lags  
**lag vi lagged; lag-ging** [origin unknown] (ca. 1812) 1 *slang* chiefly Brit: to transport or jail for crime 2 *slang* chiefly Brit: ARREST  
**lag n** (ca. 1812) 1 *slang* chiefly Brit a: a person transported for crime b: CONVICT c: an ex-convict 2 *slang* chiefly Brit: a jail sentence: STRETCH  
**lag-an** \lā-'gən\ also **lag-end** \-'gənd\ n [MF *lagan* or ML *lagan* debris washed up from the sea] (1641): goods thrown into the sea with a buoy attached so that they may be found again  
**lag b'Omer** \lāg-'bō-mər, 'lāg-bə-'ō-\ n [Heb. 33d in Omer] (1904): a Jewish holiday falling on the 33d day of the Omer and commemorating the heroism of Bar Kokhba and Akiba ben Joseph  
**la-ger** \lā-'gər\ n [G *Lagerbier* beer made for storage, fr. *Lager* store house + *Bier* beer] (ca. 1853): a light beer brewed by slow fermentation and matured under refrigeration  
**lag-gard** \lā-'gərd\ adj (1702): lagging or tending to lag: DILATORY — **lag-gard-ly** adv or adj — **lag-gard-ness** n  
**lag-gard** n (1808): one that lags or lingers  
**lag-ging** \lā-'gɪŋ\ n (1794): a lag or material used for making lags  
**lag** a: material for thermal insulation esp. around a cylindrical object b: planking used esp. for preventing cave-ins in earthwork or for supporting an arch during construction  
**la-gniappe** \lan-'yap, lan-'yap\ n [AmerF, fr. AmerSp *la fiapa* the gniappe] (1849): a small gift given a customer by a merchant at the time of a purchase; broadly: something given or obtained gratuitously or by way of good measure  
**lago-morph** \lā-'gə-'mɔrf\ n [ultim. fr. Gk *lagōs* hare + *morphē* form] (1882): any of an order (Lagomorpha) of gnawing herbivorous m.

about kitten, F table further ash ace mop, n  
 out chin bet easy go hit ice j  
 sing law boy thin the loot h  
 yet vision k, n, ce, ue, e, see Guide to Pronunciation